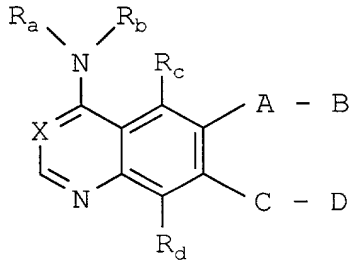
We Claim:

1. A compound of formula (I)



, (I)

wherein:

R_a is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_b is a phenyl, benzyl, or 1-phenylethyl group wherein the phenyl nucleus is substituted in each case by R_1, R_2, and R_3, wherein:

R_1 and R_2, which are identical or different, each are:

(i) a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom,

(ii) a C_{1-4}-alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, C_{4-6}-cycloalkoxy, C_{2-5}-alkenyl, or C_{2-5}-alkynyl group,

(iii) an aryl, aryloxy, arylmethyl, or arylmethoxy group,

(iv) a C_{3-5}-alkenyloxy or C_{3-5}-alkynyloxy group, wherein the unsaturated moiety thereof is not linked to the oxygen atom,

(v) a C_{1-4}-alkylsulfenyl, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonyloxy, trifluoromethylsulfenyl, trifluoromethylsulfinyl, or trifluoromethylsulfonyl group,

(vi) a methyl or methoxy group substituted by 1 to 3 fluorine atoms,

(vii) an ethyl or ethoxy group substituted by 1 to 5 fluorine atoms, or

(viii) a cyano or nitro group or an amino group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4}-alkyl groups, wherein the substituents are identical or different, or

R_1 together with R_2, if they are bound to adjacent carbon atoms, are a -CH=CH-CH=CH, -CH=CH-NH, or -CH=N-NH group, and

R_3 is a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine atom, or a C_{1-4}-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or C_{1-4}-alkoxy group;

X is a methine group substituted by a cyano group or a nitrogen atom;

A is a group consisting of:

(a) -O-C_{1-6}-alkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene, or -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(b) an -O-C_{1-6}-alkylene group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the oxygen atom of the -O-C_{1-6}-alkylene group is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(c) an -O-C_{2-6}-alkylene group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, piperazino, or 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino group, wherein the oxygen atom of the -O-C_{2-6}-alkylene group is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(d) a -C_{1-6}-alkylene group,

(e) an -NR_4-C_{1-6}-alkylene, -NR_4-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -NR_4-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -NR_4-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene, or -NR_4-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene group, wherein the -NR_4- moiety thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(f) an oxygen atom linked to a carbon atom of the group B, or

(g) a NR_4 group linked to a carbon atom of the group B,

B is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-alkylene-NR_5, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-alkylene-NR_5 group, wherein in each case the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and

contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(b) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(c) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6OCO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(d) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(f) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(g) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(h) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(i) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(j) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5 to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at a carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(k) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5 to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(l) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(m) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(n) a 2-oxomorpholino group substituted by 1 to 4 C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(o) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a hydrogen atom, or by a C_{1-4}-alkyl, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group thereof is linked to a carbon atom of the group A, and

(p) an $R_{11}NR_5$ group, or

A together with B are a group consisting of:

(a) a hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine atom,

(b) a C_{1-6}-alkoxy group,

(c) a C_{2-6}-alkoxy group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, hexahydroazepino, morpholino, homomorpholino, piperazino, 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino, homopiperazino, 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-homopiperazino, or 1-imidazolyl group,

(d) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group substituted by a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted at the 1 position by R_{10},

(e) a C_{1-6}-alkoxy group substituted by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), or (R_7O-PO-R_9) group,

(f) a C_{3-7}-cycloalkoxy or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkoxy group,

(g) an amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, hexahydroazepino, morpholino, homomorpholino, piperazino, 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino, homopiperazino, or 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-homopiperazino group, and

(h) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups;

C is a group consisting of:

(a) an -O-C_{1-6}-alkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene, or -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(b) an -O-C_{1-6}-alkylene group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the oxygen atom of the -O-C_{1-6}-alkylene group is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(c) an -O-C_{2-6}-alkylene group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, piperazino, or 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino group and the oxygen atom of the -O-C_{2-6}-alkylene group is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(d) a -C_{1-6}-alkylene group,

(e) an -NR_4-C_{1-6}-alkylene, -NR_4-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -NR_4-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -NR_4-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene, or -NR_4-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene group, wherein the -NR_4- moiety thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(f) an oxygen atom linked to a carbon atom of the group D, and

(g) a NR_4 group linked to a carbon atom of the group D,

D is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-alkylene-NR_5, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein in each case the alkylene moiety thereof, which is straight-chained and contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(b) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(c) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6OCO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(d) a piperazino or homopiperazino group in each case substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino or homopiperazino group in each case substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(f) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(g) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(h) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(i) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(j) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at a carbon atom by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), (R_7O-PO-R_9), R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(k) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(l) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(m) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO group and an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(n) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 to 4 C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(o) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a hydrogen atom, or by a C_{1-4}-alkyl, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group C, and

(p) an $R_{11}NR_5$ group, or

C and D together are a group consisting of:

(a) a hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine atom;

(b) a C_{1-6}-alkoxy group,

(c) a C_{2-6}-alkoxy group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino,

hexahydroazepino, morpholino, homomorpholino, piperazino, 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino, homopiperazino, 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-homopiperazino, or 1-imidazolyl group,

(d) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group substituted by a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted at the 1 position by R_{10},

(e) a C_{1-6}-alkoxy group substituted by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), or (R_7O-PO-R_9) group,

(f) a C_{3-7}-cycloalkoxy or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkoxy group,

(g) an amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, hexahydroazepino, morpholino, homomorpholino, piperazino, 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino, homopiperazino, or 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-homopiperazino group, and

(h) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups,

with the proviso that:

(i) at least one of the groups B or D, or A together with B, or C together with D contains an optionally substituted 2-oxomorpholinyl group, an (R_7O-PO-OR_8) or (R_7O-PO-R_9) group, or

(ii) that at least one of the groups B or D contains an optionally substituted 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl, 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl, 2-oxotetrahydropyran-3-yl, 2-oxotetrahydropyran-4-yl, or 2-oxotetrahydropyran-5-yl group, or

(iii) that at least one of the groups A, B, C, or D, or A together with B, or C together with D contains an R_6O-CO group and additionally one of the groups A, B, C, or D, or A together with B, or C together with D contains a primary, secondary, or tertiary amino function, wherein the nitrogen atom of this amino function is not linked to a carbon atom of an aromatic group,

R_c and R_d, which are identical or different, each are a hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine atom, or a methoxy group or a methyl group optionally substituted by a methoxy, dimethylamino, diethylamino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, or morpholino group;

R_e and R_f, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_g is a C_{1-4}-alkyl, C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, or C_{5-7}-cycloalkoxy group;

R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_5 is a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-4}-alkyl group optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO, (R_7O-PO-OR_8), or (R_7O-PO-R_9) group,

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, or di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino group, or by a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group, wherein a methylene group at the 4 position of the 6- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom, or by a sulfinyl, sulfonyl, imino, or *N*-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-imino group, or

a C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl group;

R_6, R_7, and R_8, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-8}-alkyl group optionally substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, or di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino group or by a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group, wherein a methylene group at the 4 position of the 6- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom, or by a sulfinyl, sulfonyl, imino, or *N*-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-imino group,

a C_{4-7}-cycloalkyl group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups,

a C_{3-5}-alkenyl or C_{3-5}-alkynyl group, wherein the unsaturated moiety thereof is not linked to the oxygen atom, or

a C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkyl, aryl, aryl-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_9 is a C_{1-4}-alkyl, aryl, or aryl-C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_{10} is a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-4}-alkyl, formyl, C_{1-4}-alkylcarbonyl, or C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonyl group;

R_{11} is a 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl, 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl, 2-oxotetrahydropyran-3-yl, 2-oxotetrahydropyran-4-yl, or 2-oxotetrahydropyran-5-yl group each optionally substituted by one or two methyl groups;

R_{12} is a cyano, carboxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_{1-4}-alkylaminocarbonyl, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-aminocarbonyl, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfenyl, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonyloxy, trifluoromethyloxy, nitro, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, C_{1-4}-alkylcarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-C_{1-4}-alkylcarbonylamino, C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-C_{1-4}-alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}-alkylaminosulfonyl, or di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-aminosulfonyl group or a carbonyl group substituted by a 5- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group, wherein a methylene group at the 4 position of the 6- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom, or by a sulfinyl, sulfonyl, imino, or *N*-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-imino group; and

R_{13} is a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom, or a C_{1-4}-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or C_{1-4}-alkoxy group, or two groups R_{13}, if they are bound to adjacent carbon atoms, together are a C_{3-5}-alkylene, methylenedioxy, or 1,3-butadien-1,4-ylene group,

wherein the aryl moieties of the abovementioned groups are identical or different phenyl groups optionally monosubstituted by R_{12}, mono-, di-, or trisubstituted by R_{13}, or

monosubstituted by R_{12} and additionally mono- or disubstituted by R_{13}, wherein the substituents are identical or different,

or a tautomer, stereoisomer, or salt thereof.

2. The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein R_a is a hydrogen atom.

3. The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein:

R_a is a hydrogen atom;

R_b is a phenyl, benzyl, or 1-phenylethyl group wherein the phenyl nucleus is substituted in each case by R_1, R_2, and R_3, wherein:

R_1 and R_2, which are identical or different, each are:

(i) a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom;

(ii) a methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy, amino, cyano, vinyl, or ethynyl group,

(iii) an aryl, aryloxy, arylmethyl, or arylmethoxy group, or

(iv) a methyl or methoxy group substituted by 1 to 3 fluorine atoms, or

R_1 together with R_2, if they are bound to adjacent carbon atoms, are a -CH=CH-CH=CH, -CH=CH-NH, or -CH=N-NH group, and

R_3 is a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine atom;

X is a nitrogen atom;

A is group consisting of:

(a) an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene, or -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(b) an -O-C_{2-4}-alkylene group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy group, wherein the oxygen atom of the -O-C_{2-4}-alkylene group is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I), or

(c) an oxygen atom linked to a carbon atom of the group B,

B is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-alkylene-NR_5, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein in each case the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(b) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(c) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(d) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(f) a piperazino or homopiperazino group which in each case is substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(g) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(h) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(i) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(j) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at a carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(k) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(l) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(m) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted in each case at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(n) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 to 4 C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(o) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a hydrogen atom, or by a C_{1-4}-alkyl or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group A, and

(p) an $R_{11}NR_5$ group, or

A together with B are a group consisting of:

(a) a hydrogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group,

(c) a C_{2-4}-alkoxy group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, piperazino, or 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino group,

(d) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group substituted by a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by R_{10},

(e) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group substituted by an R_6O-CO group, and

(f) a C_{4-7}-cycloalkoxy or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkoxy group;

C is a group consisting of:

(a) an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene, -O-C_{4-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene, or -O-C_{1-3}-alkylene-C_{3-7}-cycloalkylene-C_{1-3}-alkylene group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

(b) an -O-C_{2-4}-alkylene group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy group, wherein the oxygen atom of the -O-C_{2-4}-alkylene group is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I), and

(c) an oxygen atom linked to a carbon atom of the group D,

D is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-alkylene-NR_5, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein in each case the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}-alkyl groups or by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(b) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(c) a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(d) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(f) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted in each case at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(g) a piperazino or homopiperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at cyclic carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(h) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted in each case by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(i) a morpholino or homomorpholino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(j) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at a carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO, R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(k) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted at the 1 position by R_{10}, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(l) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

(m) a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, or hexahydroazepinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 5- to 7-membered rings thereof in each case are additionally substituted at carbon atoms thereof by one or two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl groups,

(n) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 to 4 C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(o) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a hydrogen atom, or by a C_{1-4}-alkyl or R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group C, and

(p) an $R_{11}NR_5$ group, or

C together with D are a group consisting of:

(a) a hydrogen atom,

(b) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group,

(c) a C_{2-4}-alkoxy group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, piperazino, or 4-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-piperazino group,

(d) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group substituted by a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by R_{10},

(e) a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group substituted by an R_6O-CO group, and

(f) a C_{4-7}-cycloalkoxy or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkoxy group;

R_c and R_d in each case are a hydrogen atom;

R_e and R_f, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_g is a C_{1-4}-alkyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, or C_{5-6}-cycloalkoxy group;

R_5 is a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-4}-alkyl group optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO group,

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy or C_{1-4}-alkoxy group, or

a C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl or C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl group;

R_6, R_7, and R_8, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-8}-alkyl group optionally substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, or di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino group or by a 4- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group, wherein a methylene group at the 4 position of the 6- to 7-membered alkyleneimino group is optionally replaced by an oxygen atom or by an *N*-(C_{1-2}-alkyl)-imino group,

a C_{4-6}-cycloalkyl group,

a C_{3-5}-alkenyl or C_{3-5}-alkynyl group, wherein the unsaturated moiety is not linked to the oxygen atom,

a C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}-alkyl, aryl, aryl-C_{1-4}-alkyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group, wherein

R_9 is a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_{10} is a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl group;

R_{11} is a 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl, 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl, 2-oxotetrahydropyran-3-yl, 2-oxotetrahydropyran-4-yl, or 2-oxotetrahydropyran-5-yl group optionally substituted by one or two methyl groups;

R_{12} is a cyano, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_{1-2}-alkylaminocarbonyl, di-(C_{1-2}-alkyl)-aminocarbonyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfenyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, C_{1-4}-alkylamino, or di-(C_{1-4}-alkyl)-amino group; and

R_{13} is a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom, or a C_{1-2}-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or C_{1-2}-alkoxy group, or two groups R_{13}, if they are bound to adjacent carbon atoms, together are a C_{3-5}-alkylene, methylenedioxy, or 1,3-butadien-1,4-ylene group,

or a tautomer, stereoisomer, or salt thereof.

4. The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein:

R_a is a hydrogen atom,

R_b is a phenyl, benzyl, or 1-phenylethyl group wherein the phenyl nucleus is substituted in each case by R_1, R_2, and R_3, wherein:

R_1 and R_2, which are identical or different, each are:

(i) a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine atom, or

(ii) a methyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethynyl, or cyano group, and

R_3 is a hydrogen atom;

X is a nitrogen atom;

A is an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene or -O-CH_2-CH(OH)-CH_2 group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I);

B is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and contains 1 or 2 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-methyl group;

(b) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(c) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(d) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(f) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group and additionally at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(g) a morpholino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(h) a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(i) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups,

(j) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a methyl, ethyl, or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group A, and

(k) a $R_{11}N(C_{1-2}$-alkyl) group, or

A and together with B are a group consisting of:

(a) a hydrogen atom, or a methoxy, ethoxy, or 2-methoxyethoxy group,

(b) a C_{1-2}-alkoxy group substituted by an R_6O-CO group, and

(c) a C_{4-6}-cycloalkoxy or C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy group;

C is an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene or -O-CH_2-CH(OH)-CH_2 group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I),

D is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and contains 1 or 2 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-methyl group,

(b) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(c) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(d) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(f) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(g) a morpholino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(h) a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(i) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups,

(j) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a methyl, ethyl, or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group C, and

(k) a $R_{11}N(C_{1-2}$-alkyl) group, or

C together with D are a group consisting of:

(a) a hydrogen atom, or a methoxy, ethoxy, or 2-methoxyethoxy group,

(b) a C_{1-2}-alkoxy group substituted by an R_6O-CO group, and

(c) a C_{4-6}-cycloalkoxy or C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy group;

R_c and R_d in each case are a hydrogen atom;

R_e is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_f is a hydrogen atom;

R_g is a C_{1-4}-alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, cyclopentyloxy, or cyclohexyloxy group;

R_5 is a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-2}-alkyl group optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO group,

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy group, or

a C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl or C_{3-6}-cycloalkylmethyl group;

R_6 is a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, phenyl, benzyl, 5-indanyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_7 and R_8, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom, or a methyl, ethyl, phenyl, benzyl, 5-indanyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_9 is a methyl or ethyl group;

R_{10} is a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl group; and

R_{11} is a 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl or 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl group,

or a tautomer, stereoisomer, or salt thereof.

5. The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein:

R_a is a hydrogen atom;

R_b is a phenyl, benzyl, or 1-phenylethyl group wherein the phenyl nucleus is substituted in each case by R_1, R_2, and R_3, wherein:

R_1 and R_2, which are identical or different, each are a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine atom, or a methyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethynyl, or cyano group, and

R_3 is a hydrogen atom;

X is a nitrogen atom;

A is an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene or -O-CH_2-CH(OH)-CH_2 group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I);

B is a group consisting of:

(a) a R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and contains 1 or 2 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-methyl group,

(b) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(c) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(d) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(f) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(g) a morpholino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(h) a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(i) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups,

(j) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a methyl, ethyl, or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group A, and

(k) a $R_{11}N(C_{1-2}$-alkyl) group, or

C together with D are a group consisting of a hydrogen atom, and a methoxy, ethoxy, 2-methoxyethoxy, C_{4-6}-cycloalkoxy, and C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy group;

R_c and R_d in each case are a hydrogen atom;

R_e is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_f is a hydrogen atom;

R_g is a C_{1-4}-alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, cyclopentyloxy, or cyclohexyloxy group;

R_5 is a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-2}-alkyl group optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO group,

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy group, or

a C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl or C_{3-6}-cycloalkylmethyl group;

R_6 is a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, phenyl, benzyl, 5-indanyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_7 and R_8, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom, or a methyl, ethyl, phenyl, benzyl, 5-indanyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_9 is a methyl or ethyl group;

R_{10} is a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl group; and

R_{11} is a 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl or 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl group,

or a tautomer, stereoisomer, or salt thereof.

6. The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein:

R_a is a hydrogen atom;

R_b is a phenyl, benzyl, or 1-phenylethyl group wherein the phenyl nucleus is substituted in each case by R_1, R_2, and R_3, wherein:

R_1 and R_2, which are identical or different, each are:

(i) a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine atom, or

(ii) a methyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethynyl, or cyano group, and

R_3 is a hydrogen atom;

X is a nitrogen atom;

A together with B are a group consisting of: a hydrogen atom, or a methoxy, ethoxy, 2-methoxyethoxy, C_{4-6}-cycloalkoxy, or C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy group;

C is an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene or -O-CH_2-CH(OH)-CH_2 group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I);

D is a group consisting of:

(a) R_6O-CO-alkylene-NR_5 group wherein the alkylene moiety, which is straight-chained and contains 1 or 2 carbon atoms, is additionally optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-methyl group,

(b) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(c) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by two R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl groups,

(d) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by R_{10} and additionally at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(e) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(f) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group and additionally substituted at a cyclic carbon atom thereof by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(g) a morpholino group substituted by an R_6O-CO or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group,

(h) a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-C_{1-4}-alkyl, bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-4}-alkyl, (R_7O-PO-OR_8)-methyl, or (R_7O-PO-R_9)-methyl group,

(i) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by 1 or 2 methyl groups,

(j) a 2-oxomorpholinyl group substituted at the 4 position by a methyl, ethyl, or R_6O-CO-C_{1-2}-alkyl group, wherein the 2-oxomorpholinyl group is linked to a carbon atom of the group C, and

(k) a $R_{11}N(C_{1-2}$-alkyl) group;

R_c and R_d in each case are a hydrogen atom;

R_e is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group;

R_f is a hydrogen atom;

R_g is a C_{1-4}-alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, cyclopentyloxy, or cyclohexyloxy group;

R_5 is a hydrogen atom,

a C_{1-2}-alkyl group optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO group,

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted at position 2 by a hydroxy group, or

a C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl or C_{3-6}-cycloalkylmethyl group;

R_6 is a hydrogen atom, or

a C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, phenyl, benzyl, 5-indanyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_7 and R_8, which are identical or different, in each case are a hydrogen atom, or a methyl, ethyl, phenyl, benzyl, 5-indanyl, or R_gCO-O-(R_eCR_f) group;

R_9 is a methyl or ethyl group;

R_{10} is a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl group;

R_{11} is a 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl or 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl group,

or a tautomer, stereoisomer, or salt thereof.

7. The compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein:

R_a is a hydrogen atom;

R_b is a phenyl group wherein the phenyl nucleus is substituted in each case by R_1, R_2, and R_3, wherein:

R_1 and R_2, which are identical or different, each are a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine atom, and

R_3 is a hydrogen atom;

X is a nitrogen atom;

A is an -O-C_{1-4}-alkylene or -O-CH_2-CH(OH)-CH_2 group, wherein the oxygen atom thereof in each case is linked to the bicyclic heteroaromatic moiety of formula (I);

B is a group consisting of:

(a) an R_6O-CO-CH_2-NR_5 group;

(b) a pyrrolidino or piperidino group substituted by an R_6O-CO group,

(c) a piperazino group substituted at the 4 position by an R_6O-CO-CH_2 or bis-(R_6O-CO)-C_{1-3}-alkyl group,

(d) a pyrrolidinyl or piperidinyl group substituted at the 1 position by an R_6O-CO-CH_2 group,

(e) a 2-oxomorpholino group optionally substituted by one or two methyl groups, or

(f) a $R_{11}N(C_{1-2}$-alkyl) group, or

C together with D is a group consisting of a methoxy, C_{4-6}-cycloalkoxy, or C_{3-6}-cycloalkylmethoxy group;

R_c and R_d in each case are a hydrogen atom;

R_5 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group optionally substituted by an R_6O-CO group, or

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted at a position other than position 1 by a hydroxy group;

R_6 is a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl group;

R_{11} is a 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl or 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-4-yl group, and

or a tautomer, stereoisomer, or salt thereof.

8. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

(1) 4-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenylamino)-6-{3-[4-(methoxycarbonylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]propyloxy}-7-methoxyquinazoline;

(2) 4-[(3-bromophenyl)amino]-6-(2-{4-[(ethoxycarbonyl)methyl]piperazin-1-yl}ethoxy)-7-methoxyquinazoline;

(3) (*S*)-4-[(3-bromophenyl)amino]-6-[3-(2-methoxycarbonylpyrrolidin-1-yl)propyloxy]-7-methoxyquinazoline;

(4) 4-[(3-bromophenyl)amino]-6-(3-{4-[(ethoxycarbonyl)methyl]piperazin-1-yl}-2-hydroxypropyloxy)-7-methoxyquinazoline;

(5) (*S*)-4-[(3-bromophenyl)amino]-6-({1-[(ethoxycarbonyl)methyl]pyrrolidine-2-yl}methoxy)-7-methoxyquinazoline; and

(6) 4-[(3-bromophenyl)amino]-6-(2-{4-[1,2-bis(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]piperazin-1-yl}ethoxy)-7-methoxyquinazoline,

and the salts thereof.

9. The compound according to one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the compound is a physiologically acceptable salt.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) according to one of claims 1 to 8 and an inert carrier or diluent.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 9 and an inert carrier or diluent.

12. A method for treatment or prophylaxis of benign or malignant tumors, diseases of the airways and lungs, polyps, diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, bile duct, gall bladder, kidneys, and skin, in a host in need of such treatment or prophylaxis, which method comprises administering the host an effective amount of a compound according to one of claims 1 to 8.

13. A method for treatment or prophylaxis of benign or malignant tumors, diseases of the airways and lungs, polyps, diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, bile duct, gall bladder, kidneys, and skin, in a host in need of such treatment or prophylaxis, which method comprises administering the host an effective amount of a compound according to claim 9.